REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending. Claim 1 is amended for clarification. No range of equivalents is intended to be surrendered by these amendments. Claim 2 has been previously canceled. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5-17 are allowed.

Pending claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,875,316 to Panwar et al. (Panwar) and U.S. Patent No. 5,922,065 to Hull et al. (Hull). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP 2143.03 (emphasis added). Panwar and Hull do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 1.

For example, Panwar and Hull do not teach or suggest:

> selecting between the microinstruction from the fetch engine and the bundle from the emulation engine, by using the multiplexer, and

> dispatching the selected microinstruction/bundle to the execution engine,

as recited in claim 1 (as presented). Support for these features can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 1, lines 28-31 and Abstract. Figure 6 of Panwar illustrates a flow diagram of one embodiment for parsing a main bundle into one or more complex or non-complex sub-bundles. As illustrated in Figure 6, and described in the corresponding text, Panwar places non-complex instructions in a non-complex sub-bundle until a complex instruction is detected (see step 602). If a complex instruction is detected, Panwar issues the instructions in the non-complex sub-bundle for execution (see step 604). Then, Panwar expands the detected complex instruction into microinstructions (step 606), places those microinstructions in a complex sub-bundle (step 608), and issues microinstructions in the complex sub-bundle for execution (step 610). Therefore, Panwar dispatches non-complex instructions (the non-complex sub-bundle) for execution before it even expands the detected complex instruction into microinstructions. Since Panwar dispatches the non-complex instructions for execution before it expands the detected complex instructions, output multiplexer 306 cannot select between the non-complex instructions and the microinstructions from the expanded complex instructions. Consequently, Panwar does not disclose or suggest selecting between a microinstruction from the fetch engine and a bundle from the emulation engine and dispatching the selected microinstruction/bundle, as claimed.

The Office Action, at page 8, states that "Panwar has in fact taught selecting either the microinstruction from the fetch engine ... or the bundle from the emulation engine ..., by using the multiplexer (Figure 3, element 306)." However, as described above, Panwar cannot and does not disclose or suggest selecting between a microinstruction from the fetch engine and a bundle from the emulation engine, as claimed, since Panwar dispatches the non-complex instructions for execution before it expands the detected complex instructions. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Panwar for at least these reasons.

Hull does not overcome these defects in Panwar, described above. Consequently, claim 1 is not rendered obvious for at least these reasons. Claim 3, which depends on claim 1, is allowable for at least these reasons and the independent features it recites.
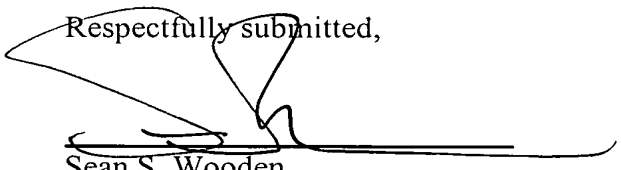
Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Panwar and Hull, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,105,125 to Nemirovsky et al. (Nemirovsky) and U.S. Patent 5,613,117 to Davidson et al. (Davidson). Nemirovsky and Davidson do not overcome the defects of Panwar and Hull discussed above with regards to claim 1. Claim 4, which depends on claim 1, is allowable for these same reasons and for the independent features it recites.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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